

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

'Air' McNair's contract still needs finetuning

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Steve McNair's debut at Houston Oilers training camp is on hold, at least for a few more hours.

The Oilers had hoped their top draft pick would be signing his nearly \$30 million pact and arriving at the Trinity University campus Monday, but last-minute contract details lingered Monday evening.

McNair, the quarterback from Alcorn State who was the No. 3 overall draft pick, reached an agreement in principle Saturday with the Oilers.

The pact reportedly will pay \$28.4 million over seven years, including a \$5.3 million signing bonus and an additional \$4.3 million in guaranteed money. Incentives could make the contract worth almost \$30 million, the richest rookie deal in NFL history.

McNair traveled from his home in Mount Olive, Miss., to Houston to review the contract with his agents Sunday night.

Former Astro wins Mexican Triple Crown

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Former major leaguer Ty Gainey has become the first player in 39 years to win the Triple Crown in the Mexican League.

Gainey, 34, hit 27 home runs, batted .410 and drove in 115 runs over a 113-game season while leading the Mexico City Red Devils to the league playoffs.

He ended the regular season on Sunday going 1-for-4 as Mexico City beat Puebla 9-7.

Gainey played for the Houston Astros from 1985 to 1988, hitting .214 with one homer in 111 at bats. He spent several years in Triple-A baseball and came to Mexico in 1992, leading the league with 47 home runs.

He played for the Orix Bluewave in Japan in 1993 and 1994.

The last triple crown winner in Mexico was Alonso Perry in 1956. The Mexican league is rated at Triple-A caliber.

Astros' comeback falls short, Dodgers win 6-5

HOUSTON (AP) — Chad Fonville drove in three runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers held on to beat the Houston Astros 6-5 on Monday night.

Ramon Martinez pitched his second complete game despite allowing a three-run homer to Derrick May in the ninth.

Martinez (10-6) allowed eight hits, walked three and struck out eight.

The Dodgers snapped Greg Swindell's four-game winning streak. Swindell (6-4) had troubles in the second and fourth innings when the Dodgers scored their runs. Swindell struck out four and walked one over seven innings.

Eric Karros got four hits and scored three runs to lead the Dodgers.

The Astros remained 5 1/2 games behind the Cincinnati Reds, which lost to the San Diego Padres 10-8.

Red Sox, Phillies swap starters Whiten, Hollins

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Boston Red Sox traded outfielder Mark Whiten to the Philadelphia Phillies for Dave Hollins on Monday in a deal involving two players having subpar seasons.

Hollins, who plays first base and third base, was batting .229 in 65 games. He was tied for the Phillies lead with seven homers and tied for third in the National League with 53 walks.

Hollins, 29, started the season with a .262 average and 60 homers in six seasons. He was Philadelphia's regular first baseman this year until last Tuesday when outfielder Andy Van Slyke returned from the disabled list, allowing Gregg Jefferies to move from outfield to first base.

Whiten, 28, was a disappointment after a spring training trade brought him and pitcher Rheel Cormier from St. Louis. Whiten had two stints at Pawtucket of the International League, the first for rehabilitation and the second after he struggled with Boston.

Three championships help Lady Aggies find home

The Aggie Softball Complex opened in March, 1994.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

The following story is the sixth in a series of articles about Texas A&M's athletic facilities.

Not many teams win three national championships before getting their own permanent stadium. But that's the road the Texas A&M softball team took, earning national respect before

finding a place to call home.

The Aggie Softball Complex on West Campus opened on March 30, 1994, with the Lady Aggies winning both games of a doubleheader from the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Then-freshman first baseman Mya Truelove provided the opening day fireworks for A&M's new

home by blasting a fifth-inning home run that won the game for the Lady Aggies. A&M concluded the 1994 season with a perfect 8-0 home record.

Not only has the complex been home to plenty of A&M victories, but it has also given the team a better public image.

"It definitely helps the exposure of our team," Assistant Softball Coach Shawn Andaya said. "Not only that, but this facility has the ability to draw a crowd."

The complex can seat 1,750 people — a far cry from the Lady Aggies' former home, Bee Creek Park, which has no permanent stands. In addition to the seats, the complex is equipped with sunken dugouts, two bullpens, four batting cages and a press box.

The state-of-the-art design and large seating capacity have helped A&M attract better opponents and more special events to the campus. During the 1995 season, the Lady Aggies hosted the Aggie Mini Tournament, which included perennial national powerhouse Arizona among its competitors, and the Aggie Invitational.

In June, the complex served as one of six sites for the 1995 National Softball Coaches Association Exposure Camp, which promotes the sport at universities across the country.

As comfortable a home as the Aggie Softball Complex has been in its first two years of existence, A&M Head Softball Coach Bob

Brock said he expects bigger better things to happen with the beginning of the Conference in the 1996-97 season.

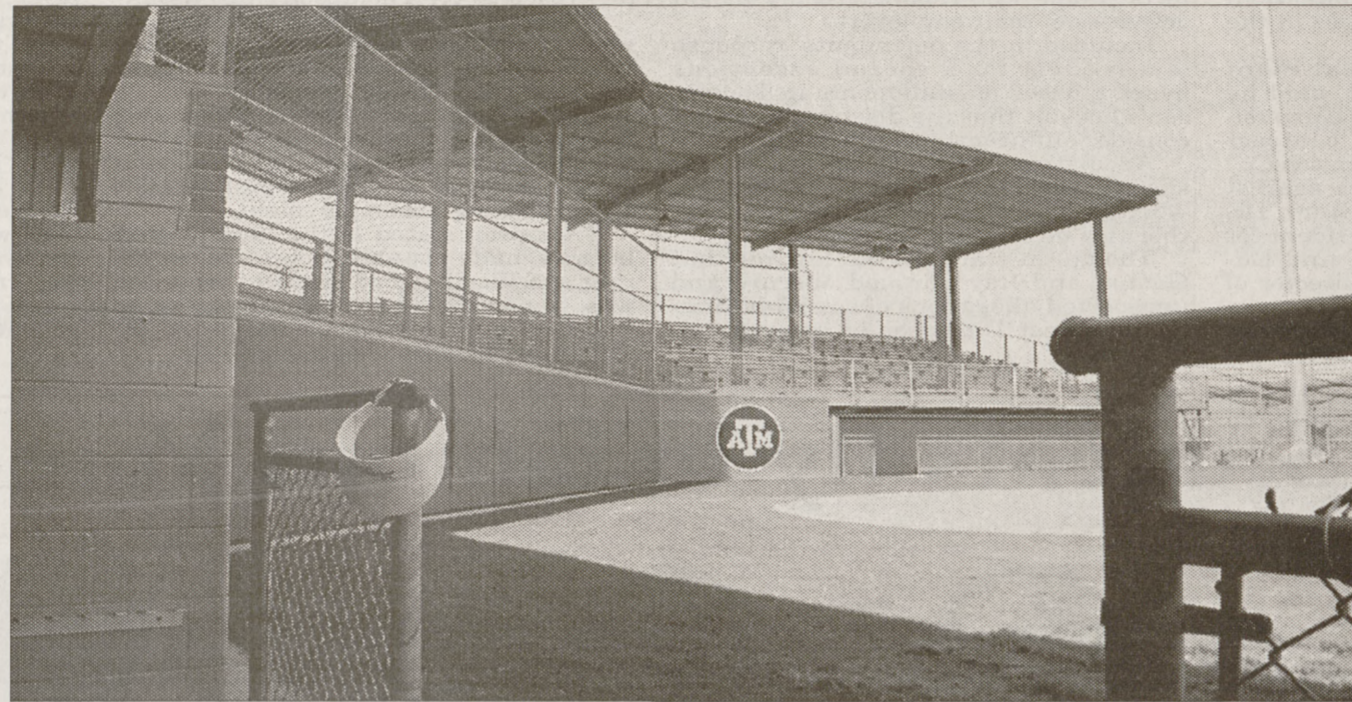
"I'm really happy for our city, it was really down class," Brock said. "Getting the Big 12 is something we've dreamed of. We're playing as an independent these years (the Southwest Conference has no sanctioning league)."

"The Big 12 will give us incentives."

Despite housing the Lady Aggies for only two years, the Aggie Softball Complex has become the home park for two of the most statistically-prolific players in A&M history — Jennifer Falls and Kim Gonzalez.

McFalls, who is currently competing in the U.S. Olympic Festival, hit .367 in her season of 1994, and also led the team in runs scored, triples, total bases and bases. A first-team All-American in 1993, McFalls led the all-South region in 1994 while helping the Aggies to an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Gonzalez, the 1994 A&M Female Athlete of the Year, pitched in 46 of the 76 games that season, together a 32-11 record with a minuscule 0.90 run average. She pitched complete games including shutouts and held opponents to a .199 batting average.



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

The Aggie Softball Complex was built during 1993 and opened on March 30, 1994, as the Lady Aggies defeated the University of Texas-San Antonio in a doubleheader. The stadium has a capacity of 1,750.

Fighting Irish to expand home field

Upon completion, the stadium will have a capacity of 80,990.

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame Stadium is still going to look like "The House that Rockne Built" once its expansion is complete, only bigger. Much bigger.

At a news conference this morning, university officials unveiled plans and drawings for the expansion, which will add 21,915 seats to the stadium and bring its capacity to 80,990.

Notre Dame Stadium has seen its share of history since it opened in 1930, and architects made sure that sense of tradition would not be lost with the \$50 million expansion.

"We certainly could sell out a 100,000-seat stadium, that's not the issue," said the Rev. E. William Beauchamp, executive vice president of the University of Notre Dame. "A Notre Dame football game is an experience. It's not just the game itself, it's the weekend on campus and everything that goes along with it."

"What we think we have done is provided an opportunity for more people to do that without significantly changing the way people experience a Notre Dame football game," he said.

Construction will begin after this season and

should be done in time for the 1997 home-opener against Miami, Ohio. The stadium will remain in use during construction.

Beauchamp said fans can expect some inconvenience during the 1996 season.

"It's not going to look very nice," he said.

A new outer wall resembling the current facade will be built around the stadium, and 26 new rows will be added to the top of the stadium, maintaining its bowl-style design.

The building's current shell will still be visible as the inner edge of a corridor surrounding the stadium.

New goal posts and a natural-grass field will be added, though the field will not have to be lowered as first thought. Parking lots that surround the current stadium will be torn up and landscaped to create a park-like atmosphere.

Notre Dame's lockerroom will more than double in size, from 3,800 square feet to 8,200 square feet, and the visitors' lockerroom also will be expanded. A new three-level press box, additional restrooms and concession facilities also are part of the project.

The expansion will make Notre Dame Stadium the 14th-largest in size among the 106 Division I-A football stadiums, up from its current ranking of 44th. Michigan Stadium is the largest, with a capacity of 102,501.



Kennard refuses Cowboys' minimum offer

The lineman said he will retire before accepting the salary offered.

AUSTIN (AP) — Former starter Derek Kennard, asked by the Dallas Cowboys to return, probably would not play again for what the team could offer him, his agent says.

The unrestricted free agent suspended contract discussions with other interested teams while he awaits a proposal from the Cowboys to bolster their offensive line.

However, agent Jack Wirth said Kennard, who made \$800,000 with the Cowboys last season, would not consider playing for that amount.

"He will definitely retire

rather than play for the minimum," Wirth said. "We could call the 49ers and have that much."

But the Cowboys, who contacted Kennard's representative Friday, are financially strapped because of the NFL salary cap, would likely have difficulty paying much more than the \$178,000 league minimum.

Wirth said Kennard has a standing offer from the Cincinnati Bengals and considers it important to be in training camp with a team soon.

The Cowboys are attempting to find a solution to their cap restraints, said team vice president Stephen Jones.

Cowboys coach Barry Switzer and offensive line coach Hudson Houck told The

Dallas Morning News after Sunday's Blue-White scrimmage that they support the team's pursuit of Kennard, whose weight has sometimes approached 400 pounds.

"We're discussing Derek Kennard because he is a proven football player," said Switzer.

He and Houck have not seen Erik Williams, Mark Tuinei or Ron Stone perform in training camp.

Stone, a projected starter who contracted chicken pox, should report to camp this week. Tuinei has a sore right heel. But it is unknown when Williams will recover from knee surgery to return to his right tackle spot and permit second-year player Larry Allen's return to right guard.

Festival's finest athlete takes 26th gold medal since 19

Iowa rollerskater Dante Muse took his fourth medal in 1995.

DENVER (AP) — The most successful athlete in the history of the U.S. Olympic Festival added another gold medal to his collection Monday.

Dante Muse, a roller skater from West Des Moines, Iowa, won the 500-meter quad race to run his gold medal count for this festival to four. He has won 26 gold medals at festivals since 1985.

Sixteen sports were on the schedule Monday, including the final round of swimming, preliminaries in women's 3-meter and men's platform diving and the first night of weightlifting.

For the second straight day, a lack of wind caused problems with sailing. Still winds early in the day caused the cancellation of some events before breezes picked up later.

The top qualifier in the 3-meter diving was Erika Sorgi of

"If you become an Olympian, you join an elite group of people, a club you may never be expelled from."

— John Naber
1976 gold medal winner

Mission Viejo, Calif. Sorgi turned 13 just a few weeks ago and is the youngest diver in the competition.

Her score of 542.55 put her in first place ahead of festival platform champion Eileen Richetelli of Milford, Conn. (529.86) and Vanessa Thelin of Provo, Utah (527.28). The finals will be held Tuesday.

"I'm going to try to be positive, think about the corrections and try to do the best I can," Sorgi said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Olympic Committee announced Monday to honor 100 country's great Olympians.

The "100 Golden Olympians" program commemorates the successes of America's Olympians during the modern Olympic Games. The athletes were announced Monday — earlier at a dinner in Atlanta on the eve of the Centennial.

"If you become an Olympian, you join an elite group of people, a club you may never be expelled from," said John Naber, who won four gold medals swimming at the 1976 Olympic Games and is among the Golden Olympians.

"It's the stories of the Olympians that stay with you can't remember the time Jansen had when he was Olympic gold medalist, but member the story of what to overcome to get there. The stories I look forward to dropping on."

The other athletes were for the announcement speed skater Bonnie Blair and skater Scott Hamilton, sprinter Greg Beyer, and athletes Johnson and Toomey.

"What a wonderful reward years of work," said

ford, a four-time Olympic four-time gold medal winner.

The Golden Olympians chosen by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Olympic Alumni Association. The other 80 athletes were announced at various leading to the 1996 Olympics.

"I'm glad I didn't wait to see if I was going one of the 80," said whose five gold medals her the most successful U.S. Olympian.

Italy Spring '96 for Future Teachers!

Study with TAMU in Castiglion Fiorentino at the TAMU Study Abroad Center in Europe! Your international experience could be your students' first look at the world!

Interested? Please come to an informational meeting in 154 Bizzell Hall West on:

Wednesday, July 25 12 - 1
Thursday, July 26 4 - 5



For more information, contact:

Prof. John Hoyle 203 HECC 845-2748
Prof. Lynn Burlbaw 330 HECC 845-6195

Study Abroad Programs • 161 Bizzell Hall West • 845-0544

Messina Hof's Harvest Fun Continues This Weekend

European Harvest Lunch & Wine-Food Seminar Noon - Sat & Sun

Join our Pickers Club for an elaborate European-style Harvest Luncheon in Messina Hof's Vineyard Grove. Enjoy Cheeses, Breads, Soups, Salads & Fresh Veggies. After lunch, participate in a personal seminar with a Messina Hof wine expert who will teach you the art of correctly pairing food and wine.

ONLY \$15 FOR EVERYTHING!
Reservations: (409) 778-3418

Shake Russell & Jack Saunders

This Saturday Night Only.

In the musical tradition of Lyle Lovett & Robert Earl Keen Jr., groove to the eclectic sounds of Houston's Best in Pop-Folk-Country. You'll hear hits from Shake & Jack's eight nationally acclaimed albums.

ONLY \$15 (\$17/gate)
Music starts at 8 PM
Deli opens at 7 PM

4545 Old Reliance Road, Bryan
Brought to you by Designer Events
More Information: (409) 778-3418